

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117–54
OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of subtitle B of title XIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 13__ . ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-**
2 **ATLANTIC SUBMARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE**
3 **CONNECTING UNITED STATES, UNITED**
4 **STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND AFRICAN NA-**
5 **TIONS OF GHANA AND NIGERIA.**

6 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense,
8 in consultation with the Secretaries of Commerce, Home-
9 land Security, and State, shall submit to the Committee
10 on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and
11 Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
12 mittee on Armed Services and the Committee on Com-
13 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report
14 containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility
15 of developing a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable
16 connecting the United States, the United States Virgin Is-
17 lands, and the African nations of Ghana and Nigeria.

18 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
19 (a) shall include—

1 (1) the digital security and national security op-
2 portunities associated with such a trans-Atlantic
3 submarine fiber optic cable;

4 (2) the lifespan of submarine fiber optic cables
5 presently connecting the United States Virgin Is-
6 lands to the rest of the United States;

7 (3) the current security of telecommunications
8 between the United States and the United States
9 Virgin Islands;

10 (4) the national security, digital security, and
11 economic advantages associated with a trans-Atlan-
12 tic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the United
13 States, the United States Virgin Islands, and the
14 nations of Ghana and Nigeria;

15 (5) the present reliability and security of tele-
16 communications infrastructure in the United States
17 Virgin Islands;

18 (6) the potential for international engagement
19 in a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable con-
20 nection produced by the United States and the asso-
21 ciated geopolitical and economic advantages;

22 (7) the potential digital sovereignty opportuni-
23 ties of such a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic
24 cable;

1 (8) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-
2 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services
3 facility, with independent power generation, in the
4 United States Virgin Islands for military and na-
5 tional security communications; and

6 (9) any other related matters the Secretary de-
7 termines are appropriate.

8 (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
9 shall be submitted in unclassified form without any des-
10 ignation relating to dissemination control, but may include
11 a classified annex.

